Retail Outlets (ROs) and 86 kerosene wholesale dealers in the State of Jharkhand. Except Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, there is no quota of petroleum products for States/Union Territories (UTs). PDS kerosene is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States/UTs for further distribution under the PDS network. The quantity of PDS kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Government/ UT.

(d) At present, new LPG connectins are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and there is no overall waiting list for release of new connections in the State of Jharkhand.

Kerosene quota for A.P.

4401. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that despite increased Central allocation of PDS kerosene to 55,356 KL per month, there is still a shortage of about 17,000 KL of kerosene per month in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) as the number of BPL cards in the State has gone up considerably;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has agreed to increase the present kerosene quota for A.P. by 17,000 KL p.m.;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Government of India allocates kerosene to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto,

additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for first quarter for 2007-08 have been maintained at the level of 2006-07.

In view of requests received from various State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has also *inter-alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for ratioalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Development of tourism in states

4402. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the States had submitted certain proposals to the Central Government for the development of tourism in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States and the proposals submitted by them; and

(c) what is the present status of these proposals?